

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 5, 2002

Carey Bare (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the wildfire hazard mitigation activities at LANL are continuing. Defensible space thinning and thinning along Highway 4 are being completed. Thinning is also being conducted in TA-3 and TA-49. In addition, trees scheduled for thinning in selected areas at LANL are being sampled and analyzed for contaminants.

Dean Clark (Fire Management Officer, Bandelier National Monument) reported that basic fire training is being conducted at Bandelier National Monument all this week. Also, the recent rainstorm resulted in 0.03 inch of rainfall. Dry lightning strikes were also received.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported on the progress of wildfire hazard mitigation activities being conducted to the west of 48th Street in Los Alamos. In this area, all trees on County land within 50 feet of private property will be removed. From this point to the boundary between the County and the Forest Service, all trees will be removed except wildlife trees. Later this summer, the Volunteer Task Force will assist in the planting of 40,000 seedlings in this treated area.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has completed the installation of the RRES-ECO Wildfire Behavior Modeling System at the EOC. This model is now available for use during a wildfire emergency. In addition, all six of the permanent plots within the Demonstration Area at TA-8 have been sampled. With regard to pre-treatment and post-treatment monitoring, twelve new permanent plots in piñon-juniper woodlands have been established and sampled. These areas will be thinned later this summer. Post-treatment sampling will be conducted next summer. Also, the second version of the wildfire hazard map was received from EDAC at the University of New Mexico. This version of the map is being reviewed, and field sampling to improve the accuracy of the map will be conducted during the next two weeks. Finally, the last details of reformatting data from permanent monitoring plots for use as inputs to the FVS modeling system have been worked out.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 19, at TA-21, Building 210 in the Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.